



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Intermountain Region

Regional Director's Office
12795 W. Alameda Pkwy.
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 24, 2005

Patricia Turley
505-988-6745

Intermountain Region News Release

John C. Benjamin Named Superintendent of Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico

DENVER – John C. Benjamin, a 32-year veteran of the National Park Service (NPS), has been named Superintendent of Carlsbad Caverns National Park. The selection was announced on February 24, by Steve Martin, Director of the National Park Service's Intermountain Region.

Benjamin has been assigned to this position on a temporary basis since October 1, 2004. He is expected to take on his new role on a permanent basis effective March 6. He succeeds Mary Gibson Scott, who accepted the superintendency at Grand Teton National Park in May 2004.

On accepting the assignment, Benjamin stated, "The stunning resources of Carlsbad Caverns National Park have been astounding and inspiring people for over a hundred years. I am both honored and humbled at the prospect of serving with the dedicated staff and volunteers who labor to preserve and welcome visitors to such an important component of the heritage of the people of the United States. Carlsbad Caverns is one of those special places that every American should experience."

A native of Long Island, New York, Benjamin has worked in multiple park units throughout the Service during his NPS career. Most recently as Deputy Superintendent (2002–2005) at Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks, in the southern tip of Florida. In this position he directed all facets of park operations. He also served as Acting Superintendent for seven months, and was actively involved in the Everglades Restoration effort.



John C. Benjamin - NPS Photo

Benjamin served as Superintendent (1996–2002) at Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument in Fritch, Texas, where he managed and led these sites through the establishment of the Divisions of Resource Management (including Fire Management) and Interpretation, and the successful efforts to improve visitor safety and reduce fatalities.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

He also served as Deputy Superintendent (1991–1996) at Boston National Historical Park and Boston African American National Historic Site in Massachusetts, directing park operations at these complex urban parks with many cooperative partnerships that helped to preserve and interpret America's diverse struggle for freedom.

Other assignments include: South Rim District Ranger (1989-1991) at Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona, where he supervised emergency services and law enforcement operations at the busiest area of the park; Downlake District Ranger (1981-1989) at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in Arizona and Utah ; Park Ranger and Assistant Wilderness Specialist (1977-1981) at Glacier National Park in Montana; Park Ranger/Law Enforcement (1973-1977) at Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Nevada and Arizona; and Seasonal Park Ranger/Naturalist (1968,1970,1971) at Dinosaur National Monument in Utah and Colorado.

“We are extremely pleased that John has accepted the superintendency at Carlsbad Caverns National Park,” said Regional Director Steve Martin. “John’s extensive background and professional knowledge in all aspects of park administration has prepared him for a variety of challenges in managing a park of this size and magnitude, with many complex issues. He will certainly be a valuable asset to the Intermountain Region.”

Benjamin holds a Bachelor's degree (1969) in Resource Management from New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University, and a Master's degree (1972) in Forest Management. He served in the United States Air Force from 1962-1965, as an Airman First Class performing gunnery systems maintenance on B-47, B-52, and B-58 aircraft. Benjamin and his wife of 39 years, Deborah, will live in the City of Carlsbad. Deborah is a native of Denver, Colorado. They have a son, John, who lives in Glendale, Arizona, and manages a network of computer systems at a local high school.

-- NPS --